1995. As per approved revised cost estimate, total sanctioned outlay of the project is Rs. 838.27 crores.

(d) and (e) Introduction of the similar modern techhnology in other opencast mines would depend on geomining factors as well as techno-economic viability of individual projects.

Cost-wise comparison of Coal Production with foreign Countries

1244. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) what is the cost of production of coal in the country ;

(b) how it compares with the cost of production of major coal producing countries especially China ;

(c) what are the details of the improvements made in this area over the last one decade ;

(d) what are the reasons for slow pace if improvement in this area ; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government to reduce the cost of production of coal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) The cost of production of coal in the mines of Coal India Ltd. during 1992-93 was Rs. 334.21 per tonne. The average cost for Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. coal for 1992-93 was Rs. 491.98 per tonne. The producers of coal in foreign countries treat the cost information as confidential and as such, no reliable data about cost of production in other countries is available.

(c) to (e) Various steps taken to increase efficiency and to reduce cost of production of coal in Coal India Ltd. include :

(i) Improved manpower planning including redeployment of surplus workers and restricting the intake of new employee against vacancies caused by natural wastage.

(ii) Reduction in manpower through voluntary retirement scheme.

(iii) The concept of 'all-men-all jobs' is being tried on an experimental basis.

(iv) Improvement in the availability and utilisation of equipment by providing adequate workshop support, improved management of spares and timely rehabilitation of equipments.

(v) Increase in production and productivity with special emphasis on underground mines.

(vi) A number of systems improvements and managerial measures have been adopted to improve efficiency of operations.

Efforts to improve the productivity and to control the cost is a continuous process for Coal India Ltd. management. For this purpose optimisation of output in relation to investment, manpower and other inputs is continuously strived. As a result, the rate of increase is the cost of production of coal during the last 10 years has been contained when compared against the rate of inflation measured in terms of increase in wholesale prices.

Coal production from Open Cast and underground mining as compared to China

1245. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) what is the productivity in the open cast Mines and underground mines in the country ; separately ;

(b) how these compare with some of the major coal producing countries especially China ;

(c) what are the reasons for low productivity in the Indian coal mines ; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to improve the productivity of coal mining especially in under-ground mines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Available productivity figures for 1990-91 in respect of some of the major coal producing countries of the world are as under :—

Countries	Under-ground	Opencast
Australia (Queensland)	14.9	30.6
United States . .	10.3	47.7
China . . .	1.3	Not Available
France . . .	3.9	Do.
Germany . . .	4.1	Do.
Poland . . .	1.9	Do.
India—		
Coal India Limited .	0.53	3.31
Singareni Collierie s Company Limited .	0.65	4.74

(c) Some of the main reasons for overall low output per manshift (OMS) in Indian coal mines particularly the underground mines are as under :—

(i) Majority of the underground mines are old, extensive and worked manually.

(ii) Many underground mines are having geo-mining problems like steep and multiple seams, occurance of fires and water logged old workings in adjoining areas, builtup surfarce structures which need production by, sand stowing etc. requiring employment of sizeable workforce for dealing with such unproductive activities.

(iii) Coal companies are required to provide supporting services for workshops, ware-houses, water supply, colony maintenance etc. through departmental workforce, which gets added to the total manpower for computation of output per manshift lowering the overall productivity figure.

(iv) Power shortage and frequent interruptions in power supply in Eastern region in ECL, BCCL and CCL mines resulting in idle hours.

(v) High rate of absenteeism.

(d) Some of the measures taken to improve the productivity of coal mines are improved manpower management, use of higher capacity equipment, introduction of new technologies, improved availability and utilisation of equipment and improved working conditions in underground mines.

Memorandum signed by Government with workers of CIL

1246. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed a memorandum of understanding with the workers of the coal India Limited regarding their various demands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any contradiction between Government and the Coal India Limited about the utility of the memorandum of understanding;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) what are the other measures taken by Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Government have not signed any Memorandum of understanding with the workers of Coal India Ltd. Presumably the reference is to National Coal Wage Agreements signed between the Management and workers of Coal Industry, covering wage structure, DA, fringe benefits etc.

(d) to (f) There is no contradiction between the Government and CIL about the utility of NCWA. NCWAs have been signed in the past since Dec., 1974 and they have been contributing to the smooth functioning of the Coal Industry.